

# Michael McGowan

Curriculum Vitae, Summer 2023

## CONTACT

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[www.youtube.com/profmcgowan](http://www.youtube.com/profmcgowan) (lectures)  
[Prof.McGowan@gmail.com](mailto:Prof.McGowan@gmail.com) (general)  
[Michael.McGowan@fsw.edu](mailto:Michael.McGowan@fsw.edu) (work)  
[Michael.McGowan@aya.Yale.edu](mailto:Michael.McGowan@aya.Yale.edu) (home)

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## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### **2013-present**    *Professor of Philosophy, Florida Southwestern State College*

Credentialed: Philosophy, Religion, Humanities

Lee/Edison Campus, Fort Myers, FL

- Lead Faculty: Courses in Philosophy, Ethics, Religion (all campuses and online)
- Adjunct Faculty Mentor (2014-present)
- Collier Campus Faculty Senate Secretary (2014-2016)
- Continuing Contract Committee (2021-present)
- Curriculum Committee (2018-2021)
- Department of Humanities and Fine Arts Secretary (2014-present)
- Executive Faculty Senate Member (2014-2015)
- Faculty Club Advisor: Lacrosse, Multicultural, Photography
- Faculty Search Committees: English, Humanities, Music
- FSW Foundation Research Grant Recipient (2018, 2021)
- High School Ethics Bowl Judge (2016-present)
- Honors Program: Faculty Volunteer (2015-present)
- Humanities Continuing Contract Evaluation Committee (2018, 2022)
- Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl Judge (2013-present)
- International Studies Trip Leader: Florence, Italy (2019)
- Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Committee (2018-2020)
- Thought Leader: One Book, One College (2018-2020)

### **2012-2013**    *Adjunct Professor of Philosophy, Fresno Pacific University*

On Campus, Fresno, CA 93702

Classes: Philosophy of Religion

### **2011-2012**    *Adjunct Professor of Philosophy and Religion, Rowan College, Gloucester County*

On Campus, Sewell, NJ 08080

Classes: World Religions, Ethics

- 2011-2013**     ***Adjunct Professor of Philosophy, Rowan College, Burlington County***  
Online, Pemberton, NJ 08068  
Classes: Introduction to Philosophy
- 2011-2013**     ***Adjunct Professor of Religion, San Bernardino Valley College***  
Online, San Bernardino, CA 92410  
Classes: Religion in America
- 2008-2012**     ***Faculty Preparation Programs, Claremont Graduate University***  
Minority Mentor Program  
College Teaching Certificate  
Preparing Future Faculty Program

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## EDUCATION

- Ph.D.**     **Claremont Graduate University (2012)**  
School of Arts and Humanities: Philosophy of Religion  
Dissertation: *The Bridge: Revelation and its Implications*  
Committee: Ingolf Dalferth, Philip Clayton, Stephen Davis
- M.A.**     **University of South Florida (2019)**  
Dept. of Philosophy: Ethics and Social/Political Philosophy  
Thesis: *“The Thought That We Hate”: Regulating Race-Related Speech on Campus*  
Committee: Stephen Turner, Hugh LaFollette, Colin Heydt
- M.Div.**     **Yale University (2008)**  
Divinity School: Philosophy of Religion and Theology  
Academic Advisor: Miroslav Volf
- M.A.**     **Malone University (2005)**  
Graduate School: Religion/Ministry  
Academic Advisor: Stephen Moroney
- B.S.**     **Taylor University (1999)**  
Major: Early Childhood Education

## SCHOLARSHIP

- BOOKS**     *This Isn’t a Joke: Bo Burnham and the Aesthetics of Humor* (in preparation; submitting proposals to publishers in August 2023)
- Editor, *Speaking Words of Wisdom: The Beatles and Religion* (under contract; University Park, PA: Penn State University Press, 2024).
- Co-Editor, *David Foster Wallace and Religion: Essays on Faith and Fiction* (New York, London: Bloomsbury Academic Press, 2019).

SELECTED  
ESSAYS

*The Bridge: Revelation and its Implications* (Eugene, Oregon: Pickwick Publications, 2015).

“‘That Magic Feeling’: An Introduction to the Beatles and Religion,” in *Speaking Words of Wisdom: The Beatles and Religion* (University Park, PA: Penn State University Press, 2024).

“‘Don’t Pass Me By’: To Hell and Back with Ringo Starr,” in *Speaking Words of Wisdom: The Beatles and Religion* (University Park, PA: Penn State University Press, 2024).

“Conclusion: ‘All Together Now’ – Making and Finding Meaning in Community,” in *Speaking Words of Wisdom: The Beatles and Religion* (University Park, PA: Penn State University Press, 2024).

“Conceptions of the Afterlife: *The Good Place* and Religious Tradition,” in *The Good Place and Philosophy* (Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2020).

“How do they Get Away with It? Pushing Boundaries with Offensive Material on *Saturday Night Live*,” in *Saturday Night Live and Philosophy* (Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2020).

“‘Not Another Word’: Nietzsche, Wallace, and the Death of God,” in *David Foster Wallace and Religion: Essays on Faith and Fiction* (New York, London: Bloomsbury Academic Press, 2019).

“The Religious Worlds of David Foster Wallace: Both Fiction and Not,” in *David Foster Wallace and Religion: Essays on Faith and Fiction* (New York, London: Bloomsbury Academic Press, 2019).

“Human Rights Philosophy and Religion: Current Trends and Future Directions,” in *Journal of Human Rights* (November 2018).

“‘Cast Your Nets to the Right Side’: Virtue Ethics, Faith and Food Choices,” *Christian Scholar’s Review* (vol. 49, no. 2).

“Google It: Strategies for Updating the Trolley Car Problem in Collegiate Ethics Classes,” *Teaching Ethics* (Winter 2014).

With Riley Endicott, “Shades of Grey: Pascal, Rousseau, and Nolan on Human Nature” Review article for *Journal of Religion and Film*, vol. 15:2 (November 2012).

“Strategies of the Advocate: *Inception* and the Dynamics of Conversion” Review article for *Journal of Religion and Film*, vol. 14:2 (July 2010).

“A View from the Inside: *Avatar* and the Inside/Outside Distinction in Religion” *Journal of Religion and Film*, vol. 14: 1 (April 2010).

“Trauma and Grace: Theology and Psychology in Conversation” in *Pastoral Psychology*, vol. 58.2 (2009), 167-180.

SELECTED  
REVIEWS

Michael R. Panicola, et al, *Health Care Ethics: Foundations, Contemporary Issues, and Controversial Cases* in *Theological Book Review* (May 2012).

Lead Review: Clifford Williams, *Existential Reasons for Belief in God: A Defense of Desires & Emotions for Faith* in *Christianity Today* (June 2011).

David Kelsey, *Eccentric Existence: A Theological Anthropology* in *Theological Book Review* (October 2010).

J. J. Abrams’ *Star Trek: Explorations of Identity and Otherness* in *Journal of Religion and Film* (April 2009).

PRESENTATIONS

*How the World Works: Bo Burnham and the Miscarriage of Justice*  
International Society of Humor Studies  
Boston University  
(July 2023)

*Unplugged: A Truthful Conversation – Using Critical Thinking Today*  
Florida Southwestern State College  
Fort Myers, Florida  
(July 2021)

*The Impasse: Critical Race Theory and Free Speech on College Campuses*  
Southwest Social Science Association  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
(April 2021)

*Neutrality in the Classroom*  
Florida Southwestern State College  
Teaching and Learning Center  
(October 2018)

*How (and When) to Walk the Line: The Pedagogy of Contemporary Controversies*  
American Philosophical Association  
Eastern Division Meeting  
(January 2018)

Chair/Moderator, *David Foster Wallace and Philosophy of Religion*  
Illinois State University: DFW 2017  
Theme: Legacies of Complexity  
(July 2017)

*Both Fiction and Not: Philosophy of Religion in David Foster Wallace*  
Illinois State University: DFW 2016  
Theme: *Infinite Jest* at Twenty Years  
(July 2016)

Chair/Moderator, *Wallace and Religion*  
Illinois State University: DFW 2016  
Theme: *Infinite Jest* at Twenty Years  
(July 2016)

*Stones Unturned: Truth and Goodness in Science and Religion*  
Edison State College: Education for a New Humanity  
Theme: The Price and Promise of Progress  
(March 2014)

*Somewhere Over the Rainbow: Faith-Based Universities and the Queer Underground*  
Azusa Pacific University: Student Leadership Conference  
Theme: Unite  
(April 2013)

*Design vs. David Hume: Rethinking the Effectiveness of Teleological Arguments*  
Fresno Pacific University: Origins of Life Event  
Theme: None.  
(October 2012)

*Arnold's Dilemma: The Book of Mormon and the Challenge of Change*  
AAR/SBL Regional Conference: Western Commission for the Study of Religion  
– Theme: Sacred Texts, Sacred Communities  
(March 2012)

*Arnold's Dilemma: The Book of Mormon and the Challenge of Change*  
Scripps College: Religions in Conversation Conference  
Theme: Navigating the Sacred & the Profane in American Popular Culture  
(February 2012)

*The Narrative Paradigm: An Interdisciplinary Approach to the Problem of Revelation*  
Claremont Graduate University: Philosophy of Religion  
Theme: Revelation  
(February 2012)

*Sensitive Subjects: How to Handle Philosophy and Religion Classes Online*  
Fresno Pacific University: BLEND Technology Conference  
Theme: New Learning Environments and New Media  
(October 2011)

*Spare the Rod: The Philosophy of Restorative Justice*  
Fresno Pacific University: Student Life Staff Development  
(August 2011)

*Black Bishop to White Knight: Augustine's Role in the Just War Tradition*  
 Claremont Graduate University History Conference  
 Theme: The Ruptures of War  
 (April 2010)

*Odd Bedfellows: Evangelicals and Secularists on the Bible in Ethics*  
 Claremont Graduate University Minority Mentor Program Conference  
 Theme: The Spaces Between  
 (April 2010)

*White, Male, & Middle Class: Assessing Liberation from a Position of Privilege*  
 Annual National Diversity Conference (with Sanjay Merchant)  
 Theme: Diversity in the Academy  
 (March 2010)

*Contemporary Movements in the Doctrine of Revelation*  
 Annual Wesleyan Theological Society National Meeting  
 Theme: The Future of Scripture  
 (March 2010)

*Pushing the Boundaries? Religions in Transition and Faith-Based Universities*  
 AAR/SBL: Western Commission for the Study of Religion  
 Theme: *La Frontera*: Evaluating Borders and Boundaries  
 (March 2010)

*Trinity and Revelation: Some Reflections on Augustine and His Legacy*  
 Claremont Graduate University Religion Conference  
 Theme: Trinity Symposium  
 (July 2009)

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**AWARDS &  
ACTIVITIES**

***Florida Southwestern State College (2021)***  
 FSW Foundation Educational Excellence Grant/Award  
 Locations: Liverpool and London  
 Summer 2021 (not taken; Covid-19 disruption)

***Florida Southwestern State College (2018)***  
 FSW Foundation Educational Excellence Grant/Award  
 Locations: Harry Ransom Center Archives, University of Texas, Austin  
 Summer 2018

***Teaching Ethics Journal (three-year terms: 2016-2019, 2019-2022)***  
 Editorial Review Board  
 Sort reviewers/articles and submit reports on feasibility/quality

***Teaching Philosophy Journal (2015-present)***  
 Peer Reviewer  
 Review articles and submit reports on feasibility/quality

**Oxford University Press (2014-present)**

Peer Reviewer

External Reviewer for textbooks (religion and philosophy)

**Christianity Today**

*CT Book Awards* Judge

Category: philosophy of religion

2011-2014

**State of California (2012-2013)**

Substance Abuse Prevention Grant

Grant Writer, Awarded: \$6,801.00

**Fresno Pacific University (2011-2013)**

Center for Peacemaking and Conflict Studies

Graduate Certificate

**Claremont Graduate University (2008-2012)**

School of Religion

Doctoral Fellowship

**Yale University (2006-2008)**

Mary Cady Tew Fellowship

Dwight-Hooker Fellowship

David Root Fellowship

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**SOCIETY  
INVOLVEMENT**

American Philosophical Association

American Academy of Religion

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**UNIVERSITY  
SERVICE**

**Fresno Pacific University**

Worldview Forum (creator/leader)

Veritas Discussion Group (creator/leader)

Intramural Sports program (leader)

Continuous Improvement Committee (accreditation/assessment)

STEM Steering Committee

2011-2013

**Claremont Graduate University**

Research Assistant: Theism/Atheism debate, Religion and Politics

2008-2010

**Yale University**

AYA Admissions Interviewer (Central California, Southwest Florida)

Research Assistant: Yale Law School

2008-present

**Malone University**

Northern Ireland Service-Learning (creator/leader)

Resident Director Search Committee

Intramural Sports program (leader)

2001-2005

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**REFERENCES**

Available upon request.